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THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Events of Interest From Washington.

By J. E. Jones.

"WE NEED THE MONEY."

Solely, it is claimed, because of the need of revenue in these abnormal times, and not as a confession of the failure of the Democratic tariff law, the administration recently announced its purpose to recommend to Congress the continuance of the present duty on sugar. In the administration circles there was instant approval to this suggestion when it was broached by Secretary McAdoo. The Republicans naturally favor the higher tax, and they are unlikely enough to intimate that the election of a Progressive in Louisiana as a protest against the tariff law, has been in a measure responsible for the way in which the Democrats have been supporting the suggestion to restore the old duty on sugar.

Senator Underwood tacitly agreed to replace the old rate, as soon as he had talked with the President. Senators Walsh and Myers of Montana, Martine of New Jersey, Chamberlain of Oregon, Williams of Mississippi and Fletcher of Florida, were openly in favor of the suggestion from the outset; and it developed very shortly after most of the Senators and Representatives arrived, that the Democrats would support President Wilson and his advisers in restoring the old sugar schedule. Of course this takes any particular credit that may be claimed, away from the Republicans, and while the latter are inclined to criticize somewhat, and to accuse the party in power with going back on its principles, the report is that the unusual conditions of the country have made it necessary to raise more money for public purposes. The Democrats say they are absolutely consistent as their policy always has been that of a tariff for revenue. Of course a great many people insist that only the refiners would be benefited by free sugar—and perhaps right down in their boots many political leaders in both parties, are convinced that this is another splendid reason for restoring the duty on sugar.

PROGRESS IN MEXICO.

Advices received in Washington indicate that the rehabilitation of the country in progressing satisfactorily. A statement issued by our State Department says that two-thirds of the railroad equipment was destroyed during the six years of the insurrection. One of the problems of the Mexican administration is to resume regular traffic as quickly as possible. The best news that comes from Mexico is the reported success of the Carranza government in carrying out its agrarian policy. Large estates that were divided among politicians and plundered are now being divided into small farms and sold to small farmers. Particular attention is being given to locating former soldiers of the government along the lines of the railroads, so that while they till their lands they may be within a day's call of their country, should their services be needed in the army or navy. Since the Villa movement shows every evidence of being on the wane, the chances are that General Carranza will be able to succeed. He has pledged that there will be elections at an opportune time, and he insists that time has not arrived, since so much of the country remains in arms.

The Congressional bill will be grinding in a few days, and the senators are getting up a full head of steam. In fact there appears to be as much fire under the boilers that things may be expected to "blow off" very shortly. The country may appear to be in a sort of turmoil, and Congress will fulfill the usual office of giving people something directly tangible to quarrel about.

THE SMALL MERCHANT WILL WIN.

The reputable merchantile interests of the country are expecting to find relief from the evils of cut-throat competition indulged in by some of the big city stores and the mail order houses, through the Stevens bill, which appears certain to pass the present session of Congress. Mr. Edmund A. Whittier, Secretary of the American Fair Trade League says that nearly 175 members of Congress have voluntarily declared that they will support the bill. The proprietors of two of the biggest department stores in New York City have joined the ranks of the Stevens bill advocates within a week, and announced that they are tired and disgusted with

NEW YORK LETTER

Some Things of Interest by Our Special Correspondent

New York City, December 10.

Henry Ford's "Peace Ark" has, as you can imagine, been the chief topic in our newspapers lately. It has had about every possible sort of comment passed on it, save praise. The general attitude has been that it is a foolish affair. Of course the writers of funny columns have had their fun, and with much difficulty. They have had all the copy they needed, and what with joshes about "flying," "tin Lizzies," and "jetneys," they have seemed to enjoy the situation. The staid old *Evening Post*, compared to which the *Boston Transcript* is yellow, has issued a ponderous editorial in opposition—as might be expected. As for the "man in the street," so far as I can judge, he is really a little bit in sympathy with Mr. Ford. His attitude has been expressed in a little two-by-four weekly that I picked up yesterday. The editor of that sheet has declared that the expedition is a magnificent piece of direct American determination to go and do the thing that calls to us—directly, and without regard to red tape or other fussy impediments.

We are plagued with war extras. In the part of town where I live, almost every second night the newsboys come around, yelling "Wuxtry! Great Battle!" The foolish buyers discover that the French have retaken fifty feet of trench in Artois. We also get a lot of scare heads about mythical peace proposals.

The theater season is in full blast now, and as a whole it is about like any other year. Hardly a play stands out being especially worth going to in preference to some other one. In many ways the best show in town is the mammoth spectacle, "Hip! Hip! Hooray!" at the Hippodrome. Think of a stage over a hundred feet wide, and with sometimes three hundred people on it at once! The present show there is a combination of circus, ballet, panorama, and vaudeville. They stage a beautiful scene at the San Francisco Exposition in one of the acts, with pageant of the states. I did not have to work hard to identify the representation of Maine!

The last, and crowning act, is a reproduction of winter at St. Moritz, in Switzerland. The whole stage is converted into an ice rink, and they have ballet work and even variegated tangos, all on skates.

In fashionable and idle circles the favorite amusement is skating, just now. Fancy skating is coming in as a heavy rival of the modern dance, although from what I have seen of it, this modern skating is only the dances with the addition of the long glides that the ice allows.

This week the Boy Scouts are running a campaign to raise two hundred thousand dollars. It looks as though they are going to get it. Just now, however, every kind of organization is trying to raise money for Christmas festivals, and the like. Early in the week, in front of the City Hall, I was stopped three times within a few feet, so as to help some Christmas Dancer Fund. We are getting accustomed to that sort of thing here, but it seems to pay. The Polish Relief Fund ran a street campaign, and had great success. One of their campaigners said that they were getting a bigger response here than did the Belgian Relief Fund a year ago, and that it was not from Poles living here, either.

Winter has at last hit us. No snow has fallen since, but we had a few flurries early in the week, and the real cold weather seems to be here to stay. The sudden decrease in open automobiles and people riding on the top of Fifth Avenue stages has been very noticeable.

I presume you know of these Fifth Avenue stages. They are green motor trucks, and the body is about like one of the little closed street cars that they use in Lewiston. But at the rear there is a spiral stair, leading to the flat roof, and seats are arranged up there, with a good solid railing. Smoking is allowed on top. All through the more pleasant months, the stages carry heavy loads on top. They run on Fifth Avenue, from the start of that street at Washington Square, up Millionaire's Row, and then they diverge onto three routes. One line goes over onto Riverside Drive, overlooking the Hudson (some river), which is a new Millionaire's Row for part of its length, and a fine street of apartment houses further.

Rachel Westleigh is with her sister, Mrs. E. B. Mason, since coming from the hospital.

See the new handkerchiefs at L. M. STEARNS'.

TEACHERS' MEETING

Greenwood Teachers Held Helpful Session Last Friday.

Bethel School Notes

The rural teachers in Greenwood spent last Friday forenoon visiting the schools at Lockett's Mills. At noon lunch was served at the schoolhouse in Miss Farrington's room. All enjoyed this room because of its cozy appearance. The Christmas spirit was there too, the gay little trees in each corner of the room making one feel as though Santa might join them any moment. Mr. Arthur Stowell cheered the hearts of all the teachers still more when he came in at twelve o'clock, bringing delicious hot cocoa which Mrs. Stowell had prepared. This thoughtful act was much appreciated by all present.

The Superintendent called the teachers meeting at 1:15 P. M. in Miss Jafford's room. The meeting was very informal, the idea being that all should feel free to ask questions, discuss school problems, and get all the help possible from each other.

Miss Bailey spoke briefly on school lunches. She is the first in the district to prepare hot food at noon in the schoolroom.

Miss Farrington's subject was language. She emphasized the fact very clearly that every lesson should be a language lesson.

Miss Jeffords talked very interestingly on local geography; Miss Flinn and Miss Upton, aids in geography.

Miss Stanley told what she had been doing in hand work; Miss Brown talked on games; Miss Waterhouse on poems and pictures; Miss Tracey on school language work, and Miss Noble on making things attractive.

Each teacher was willing and eager to help and be helped. This voluntary interchange of ideas is especially valuable in a teacher's meeting. It shows interest, enthusiasm and the right spirit on the part of the teachers.

Beginning Dec. 14 the small pupils on the West Bethel road will be conveyed to the village school.

The Bethel school board at its last meeting decided that the length of the winter term will be ten weeks.

JUVENILE EXHIBITION AND BALL.

The Citizen was not misled last week in saying what it did about the Juvenile Exhibition, for it surpassed the expectations of all.

The strains of the wedding march announced the approach of the wedding party that came filing into the hall and led the bride to the altar where she was joined in the "holy bonds of matrimony."

The service was very impressive and realistic and each part was well taken.

Master Leo Lyons, with his winsome ways, again captivated Bethel people and whether it was song, dance or reading, he was equally entertaining.

The program was given in the Citizen last week and the children not only took part in a way that was creditable to them but showed much careful drill and attention by Miss McGregor.

This entertainment closed a series of dancing lessons which Miss McGregor has been giving the children this fall and it is hoped that she may be able to take up the classes another year.

A grand march by the children followed the entertainment after which a social dance was enjoyed by all with music by Herrick's Orchestra.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Canton Grange, Saturday, 12:15-1:15.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between J. Latchford and Harry G. Bryant, under the firm name of Latchford & Bryant, has this day been dissolved.

All bills due said partnership must be paid within thirty days to said Latchford, and all bills outstanding against said partnership should be presented at once for payment to said Latchford, at the office of H. H. Hastings, Bethel, Maine.

P. J. LATCHFORD,

HARRY G. BRYANT.

December 1, 1915. 12:15-1:15.

WEST BETHEL.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Mills from North Albion have been spending two weeks with their daughter, Mrs. Jessie Hutchinson. They are an aged couple, being ninety years old.

Rachel Westleigh is with her sister, Mrs. E. B. Mason, since coming from the hospital.

See the new handkerchiefs at L. M. STEARNS'.

GRANGE NEWS

MOUNTAIN VIEW GRANGE.

Mountain View Grange, No. 437, held its regular meeting, Dec. 7. Election of officers took place for the coming year. It was planned to give a Christmas tree for the children of the town. Miss Alexina Simpson will be musical director. We hope to see many happy little faces at this concert. The children are being prepared by the school teacher, Miss J. E. Buckley, for their rehearsal work. It was voted to have a special meeting Tuesday evening, Dec. 14, to give the first and second degrees to a new member. Following is a list of officers elected:

Master—A. B. Bryant.

Overseer—J. E. Richardson.

Lecturer—M. E. Fagan.

Steward—A. T. Heath.

Asst. Steward—E. G. Appleton.

Chaplain—Mrs. A. D. Wight.

Treasurer—Fred A. Wight.

Secretary—Abbie E. Fagan.

Gate Keeper—A. D. Wight.

Ceres—Edna Cole.

Pomona—Eva DeCosta.

Flora—E. J. Buckley.

L. A. Steward—Edna Wight.

Bethel Grange, No. 56, held their last regular meeting, Dec. 9. There was a large number present. All the officers were present at roll call. As it was the annual election of officers there was no literary program. The following officers were elected:

Master—Hermans Mason.

Overseer—Levi Bartlett.

Lecturer—Mae R. Bartlett.

Steward—Byron Cummings.

Asst. Steward—Daniel Spearin.

Chaplain—Mary Farwell.

Treasurer—Mary Cummings.

Secretary—Ida Packard.

Gate Keeper—Sidney Jodrey.

Ceres—Pauline Mason.

Pomona—Minnie Jodrey.

Flora—Edna Lyons.

L. A. Steward—Bernice Spearin.

Musical—Gladys Spearin.

Among the visitors was Mr. James W. Hibbs from Stoneham, Mass. He gave us a fine talk on Grange work. We feel we ought to give it special mention. It was so helpful to all interested. The next meeting is Dec. 23rd. A short literary program was presented and remarks for the good of the order by Guy Bartlett and G. K. Hastings.

WEST PARIS GRANGE.

The annual meeting of West Paris Grange was held, Saturday, Dec. 11, at Grange Hall, Newry, Saturday evening, at 8:30 P. M. Worthy Master in charge filled vacant chairs as follows:

L. A. Steward, Selma Smith. After the usual order of business the following officers were elected for the year 1916:

Master—A. R. Tuell.

Overseer—D. A. Grover.

Lecturer—Mrs. A. R. Tuell.

Steward—Clayton Churchill.

Asst. Steward—A. R. Cummings.

Chaplain—Rev. D. A. Ball.

Treasurer—I. H. Ellingwood.

Secretary—Iona Littlehale.

Gate Keeper—Harold Porter.

Ceres—Mrs. C. A. Churchill.

Pomona—Mrs. W. H. Lurvey.

Flora—Mrs. Eldor H. Mann.

L. A. S.—Madeline Peabody.

Choirister—Mrs. D. A. Grover.

Liberarian—Mrs. Ada Barden.

Ex. Com.—E. W. Penley, A. F. Marshall, G. W. Berry.

PEASANT VALLEY GRANGE.

Peasant Valley Grange, No. 136, West Bethel, held its regular meeting, Dec. 14, and elected the officers for the year 1916:

Master—L. A. Summer.

Overseer—J. A. Mather.

Lecturer—Mildred Eagle.

Steward—Asst. Howard.

Asst. Steward—Lloyd Luxton.

Chaplain—Mrs. Betsy Morrill.

Treasurer—Mrs. A. M. Farwell.

Secretary—Harry N. Head.

Gate Keeper—Elmer Stearns.

Ceres—Mrs. Bertha Summer.

Pomona—Nellie Bennett.

Flora—Mrs. Stella Goodridge.